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Approved For Release 2005/01/13 : CIA-RDP80B01554R003300250002-1

26 June 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Economic Research

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Soviet Item for Presidential Briefing

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1. The attached article by Paul Bracken ("Mobilization in the Nuclear Age," International Security, Winter 1978/79) compares the military mobilization capabilities of the United States and the Soviet Union. It points out that whereas in 1950 our very act of quadrupling the defense budget put the Soviets in a difficult position because they could not match the resulting mobilization capability, and we would not now have nearly as great an advantage in similar circumstances today.

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2. I recently briefed the President on your analysis of the apparent Soviet agricultural problems. It's probably time to update him on our forecast on the Soviet economy in the 1980s and the fact that it is even less favorable than when I last talked to him. I wonder if you could put that in perspective on whether it would be worth having some conclusion about relative mobilization capabilities. We all are inclined to some optimism because of our economic prowess vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, but should it be pointed out that the differences in this particular area of military responsiveness may lessen the strategic advantages of our margin of GNP, etc.?

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STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment:
Article by Paul Bracken



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